

SPAWN



Carullo
D.
Mc
FARLANE



102
DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN.COM

TODD McFARLANE AND
IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

CAUTIONARY TALES - PART I

the speed of night

DEDICATION
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
RICH FITZGERALD

PLOT
BRIAN HOLGUIN
TODD McFARLANE

STORY
BRIAN HOLGUIN

PENCILS
ANGEL MEDINA

INKS
DANNY MIKI
VICTOR OLAZABA

LETTERING
TOM ORZECOWSKI

COLOR
BRIAN HABERLIN
DAN KEMP
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TODD McFARLANE



SPAWN 101 SUMMARY

Spawn returns to the home of Granny Blake to bid her a final farewell. He explains to Granny his belief that Heaven and Hell are two sides of the same coin and defends his decision to choose neither. Granny, however, will have none of it and refuses to let Al disparage her faith. Cog is not letting Al off the hook, either, and tells him that the choice of what role he wants to take is not his to make; that by slaying Malebolgia, he has become Malebolgia's de facto replacement whether he accepts it or not.



TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS



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**THIS IS NOT
A TEST.**

**THIS IS IT.
THE REAL
THING.**

**YOUR SAD, TIRED
LITTLE EXCUSE OF
A LIFE, BEATING
ITSELF SENSELESS
AGAINST THE WALL.**

**CLOSING
IN ON YOU.**

**COLLAPSING
WITH
INCREASING
VELOCITY,
LIKE A
DYING STAR.**

**FUNNY HOW
QUICKLY IT
ALL GOES
NOW THAT
YOU'RE
NEARING THE
FINISH LINE.**

**BUT THE SHADOWS
MOVE EVEN QUICKER,
LEAPING FROM THE
DARKNESS LIKE
VILE LITTLE TONGUES.**

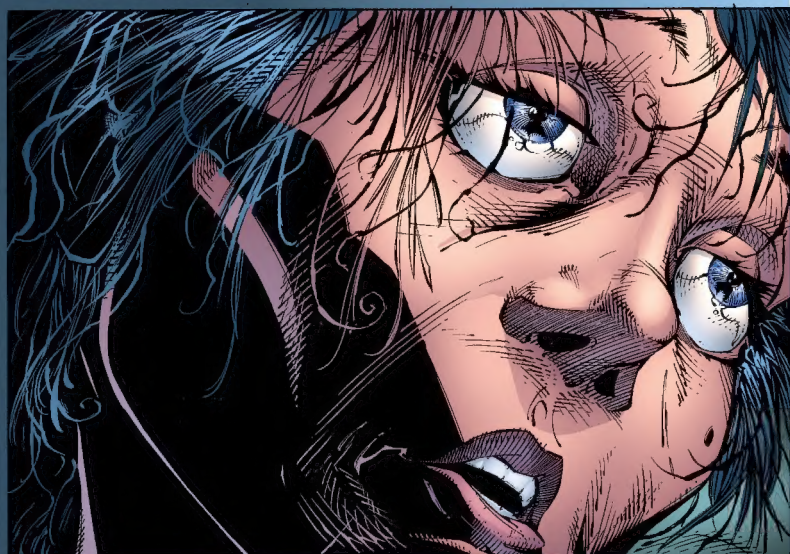
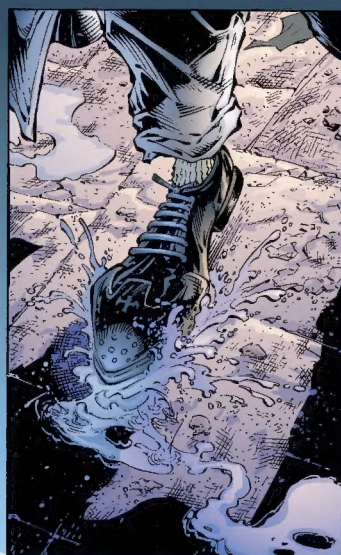
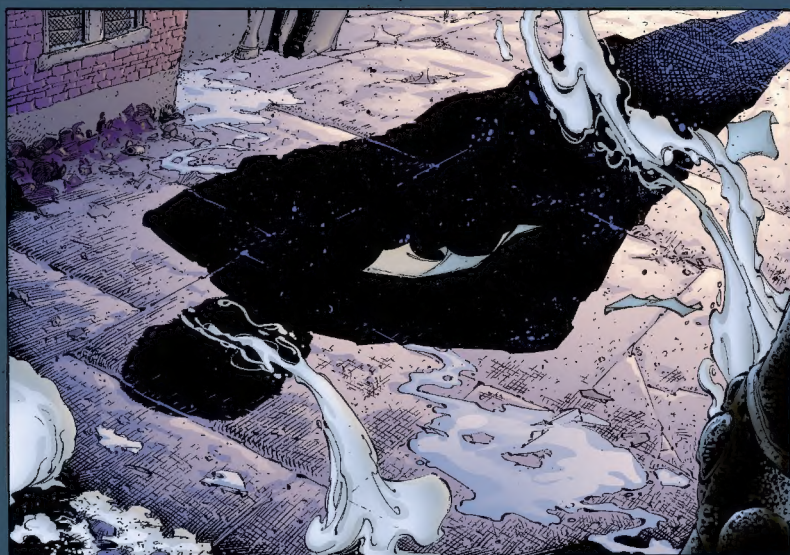
**THERE'S NO WAY
TO OUTRUN THEM.
MAYBE AT ONE
TIME THERE WAS,
BUT NOT NOW.**

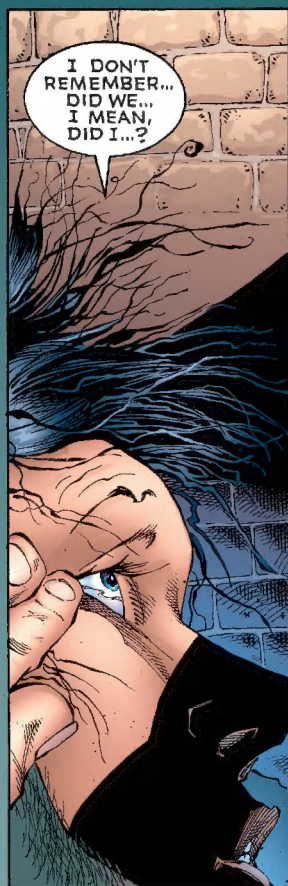
**THIS IS
YOUR LIFE.
WAS IT
EVERYTHING
YOU HOPED IT
WOULD BE?**

WAS IT EVERYTHING
YOU BARGAINED FOR?

WHAT WOULD
YOU GIVE FOR
ANOTHER
CHANCE TO
GET IT RIGHT?







I DON'T REMEMBER... DID WE... I MEAN, DID I...?



... MAKE A DEAL? NO. NOTHING THAT **FORMAL**.

BUT YOU HAVE BEEN EDGING OVER TO MY SIDE OF THE FIELD FOR SOME TIME. YOU CAN'T BE ENTIRELY SURPRISED BY THIS.



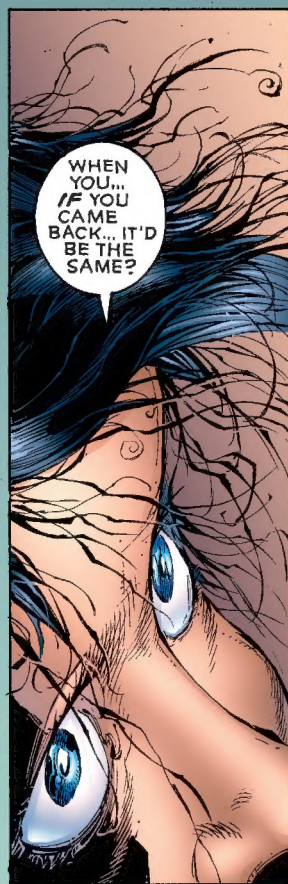
NO.

NO INDEED.



I CAN COME BACK LATER IF YOU LIKE. REALLY, I DON'T MIND. I DON'T WISH TO **RUSH** YOU.

I JUST THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET THIS **OVER WITH**.



WHEN YOU... **IF** YOU CAME BACK... IT'D BE THE SAME?



I'M AFRAID SO.



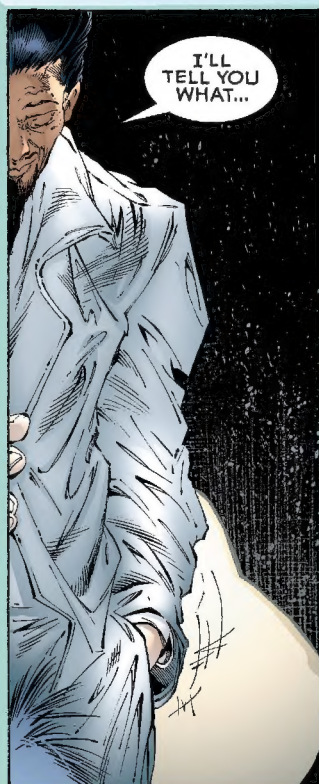
NOTHING I COULD DO, I GUESS.

NOTHING YOU **WOULD** DO.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW FOR SURE?



IT'S MY **JOB** TO KNOW. BEEN AT IT A RATHER LONG TIME, HAVEN'T I?



I'LL
TELL YOU
WHAT...



I
HAVE BEEN
KNOWN TO
COUTENANCE
A *WAGER*
FROM TIME
TO TIME.



GAME?



I TRUST
WE'RE QUITE
AGREED ON
THE *TERMS*
OF THE BET,
AREN'T
WE?



GOOD.

THERE
IS A
THING YOU
CAN'T HIDE
FROM.

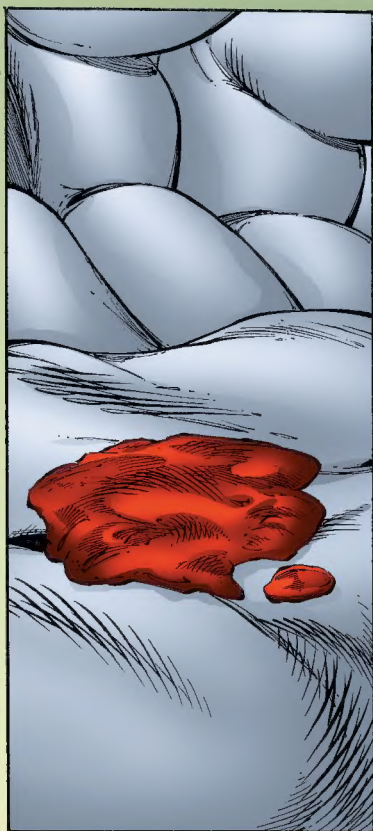
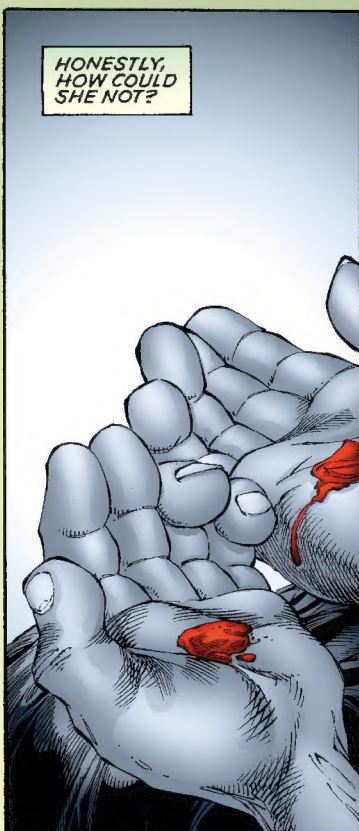
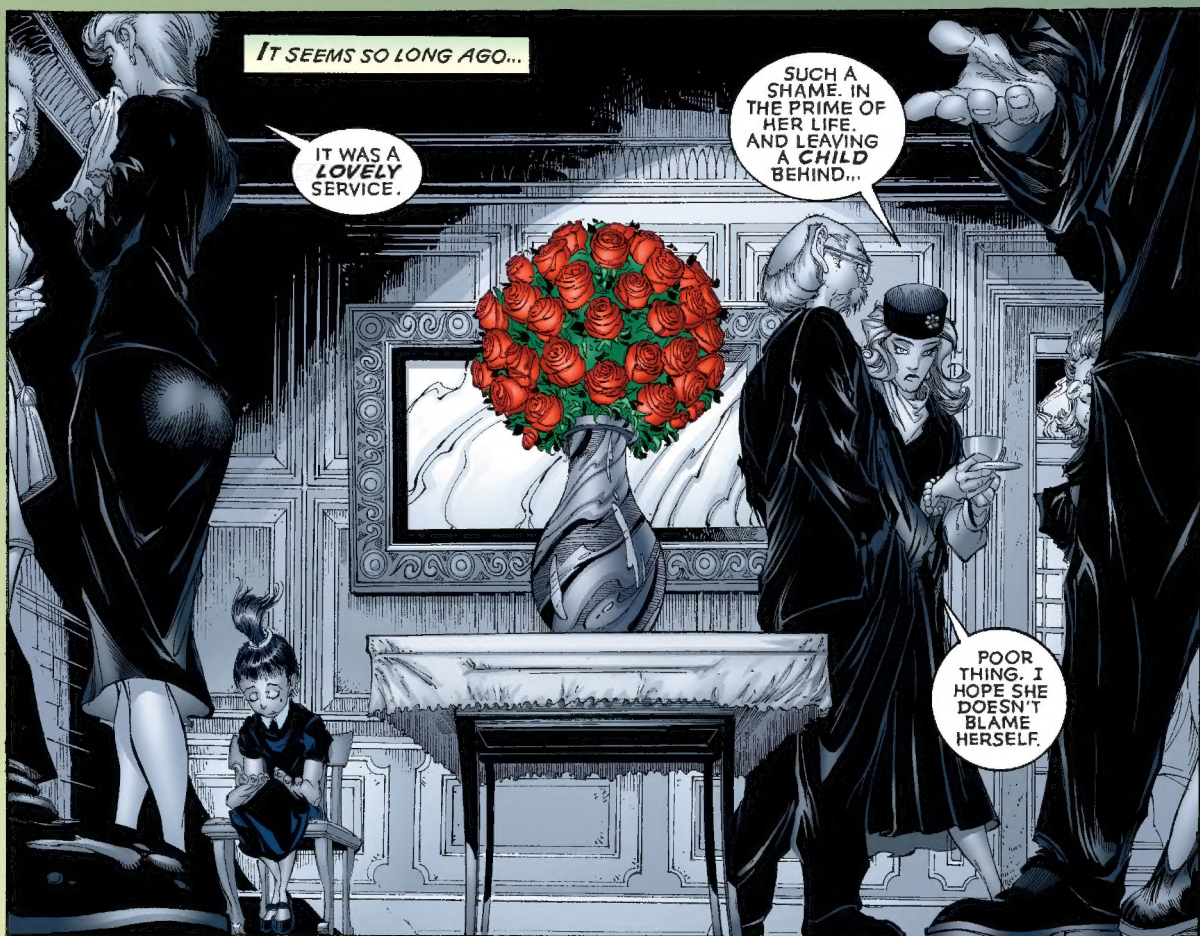
IT FOLLOWS YOU
EVERYWHERE,
ITS IMAGE
BURNED INTO
YOUR EYELIDS.

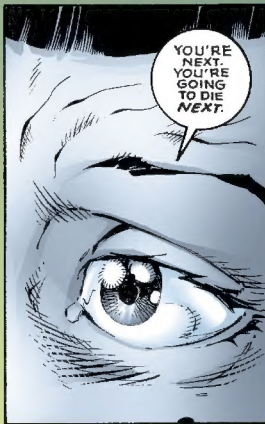
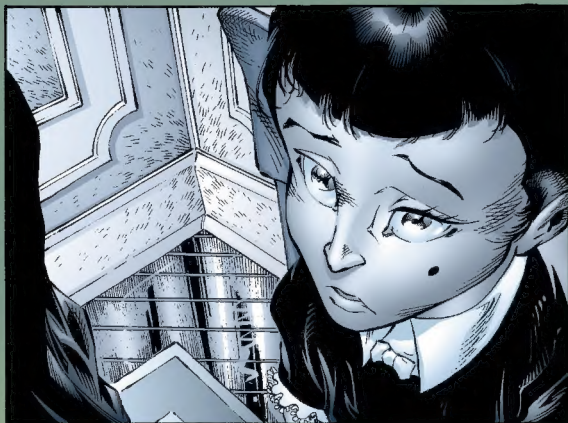
IT HAUNTS YOU
EVEN WHEN
YOU SLEEP.

SOME NAMELESS, TERRIBLE
THING THAT CHASES YOU BUT
NEVER QUITE CATCHES YOU.

HAS IT ALWAYS
BEEN LIKE THIS?
CAN YOU EVEN
REMEMBER HOW
IT STARTED?







THAT WAS ONLY
THE BEGINNING.

TIME FLIES LIKE ONE
LONG NIGHT. ONE
ENDLESS GRAY
TWILIGHT SPENT
DROWING IN THE
GAP BETWEEN
DEATH AND WAKING.

I AM SO
GODDAMN
HUNGRY...
I NEED MY
SHOT.

DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE A
LIFE AT ALL.

CUPBOARD'S BARE.
WE GOT NOTHING. NOT
EVEN A WAKE-UP.

WHOSE
TURN
IS IT?

THEA'S.
I WENT
YESTERDAY.

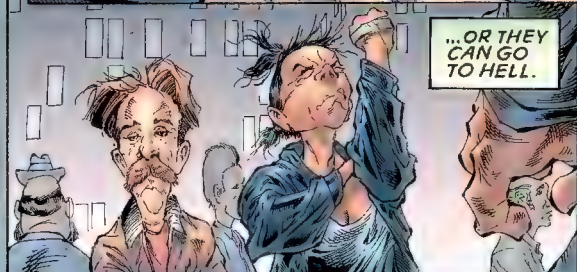
MY
TURN?
YOU
SURE?

YEAH.
I WENT
YESTER-
DAY.

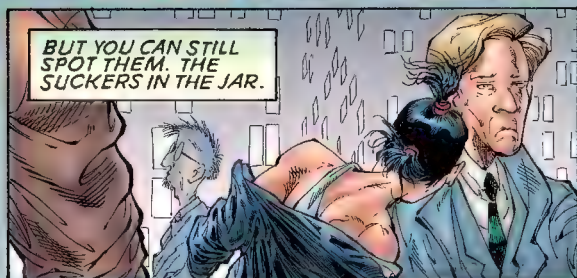
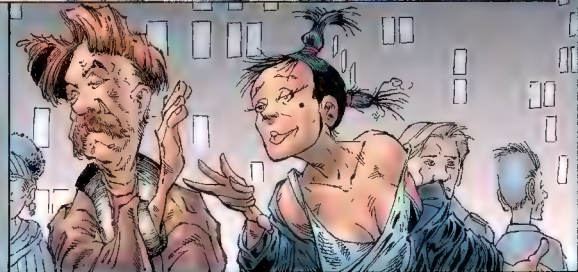


THEY MOVE
AROUND YOU LIKE
BUZZING INSECTS.
THEY MEAN
NOTHING.

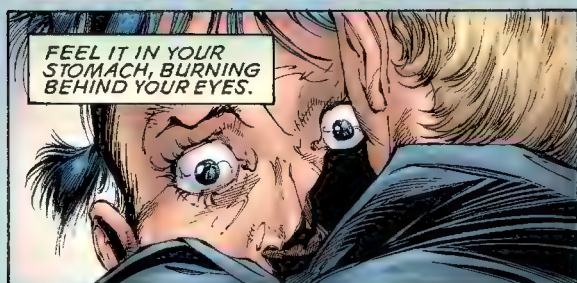
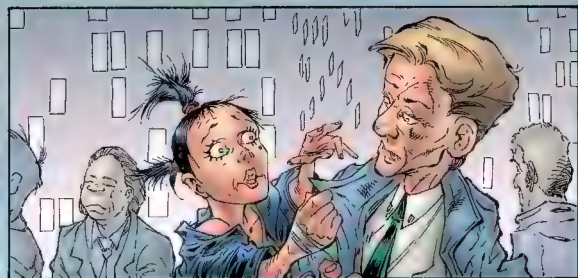
JUST RANDOM
COLLECTIONS OF
FLESH. THEY CAN
EITHER GIVE YOU
WHAT YOU WANT...



...OR THEY
CAN GO
TO HELL.



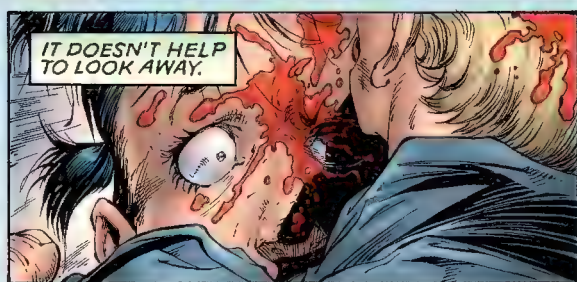
BUT YOU CAN STILL
SPOT THEM. THE
SUCKERS IN THE JAR.



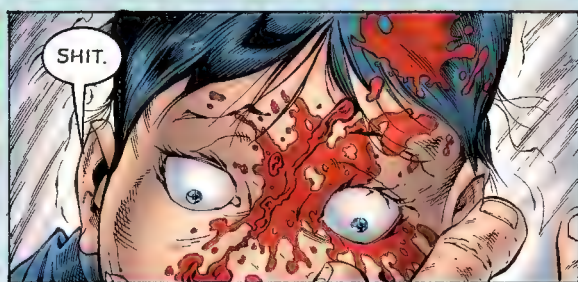
FEEL IT IN YOUR
STOMACH, BURNING
BEHIND YOUR EYES.



YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S
ABOUT TO HAPPEN.



IT DOESN'T HELP
TO LOOK AWAY.



SHIT.

BLOOD RUSHES
THROUGH YOUR
VEINS, SWELLS
YOUR TONGUE.

JEEZUS
CHRIST!
YOU WON'T
BELIEVE
WHAT I JUST
SAW!

AND
THAT'S
IT.

THEY ALL
START
DROPPING
LIKE
FLIES.

YOU ALWAYS SAID
THINGS WERE NEVER
SO BAD THEY COULDN'T
GET A LOT WORSE.

BUT YOU
NEVER
GUESSED
HOW TRUE
IT COULD
BE...

DO YOU REMEMBER
THE FIRST TIME YOU
BLED, AS A GIRL?
THE EMBARRASS-
MENT, THE SHAME.
THEY TOLD YOU IT
MEANT YOU WERE
BECOMING A
WOMAN.

BUT YOU
THOUGHT
IT MADE
YOU A
FREAK.

DEAD
INSIDE.

A DARK
SECRET
YOU
HAD TO
HIDE
AWAY.

IT WOULDN'T
BE THE LAST.



PLEASE,
HELP
ME...


YOU COULD
HEAR THE NIGHT
CALLING TO
YOU, SPEAKING
WITH THE
VOICE OF FIRE.

WHAT
DID IT
SAY?

"PURGE THE
DARKNESS
WITHIN YOU..."

"CAST
OUT THE
BLACKNESS
IN YOUR
HEART."





UNLEASH
YOUR FEARS.
THEY WILL
PROTECT YOU.

FOR A WHILE,
ANYWAY.

*FUNNY THING ABOUT DOCTORS...
THEY CAN SAVE YOU FROM DEATH,
BUT NOT FROM LIFE.*



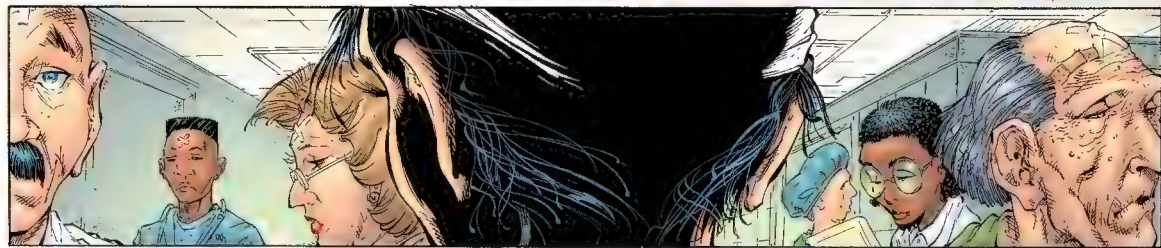
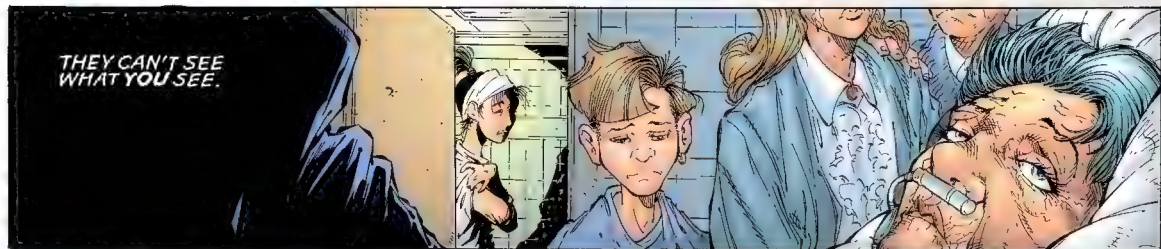
*THEY WOULD NEVER
UNDERSTAND IF YOU
TOLD THEM THE TRUTH.*



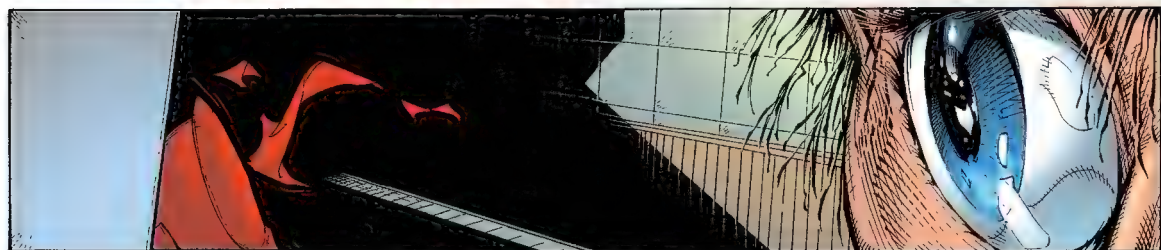
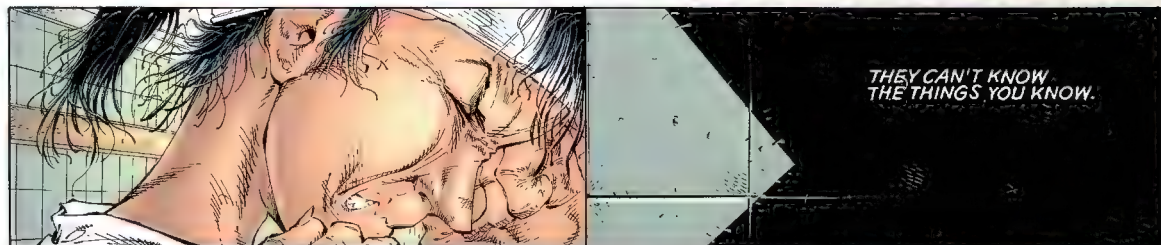
*THEY TRY THEIR
BEST. THEY
REALLY DO. BUT
THEY CAN'T SEE.*

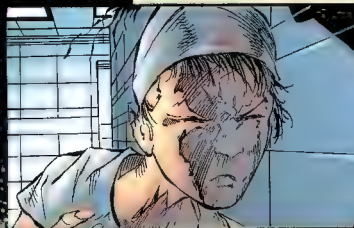


*THEY CAN'T SEE
WHAT YOU SEE.*



*THEY CAN'T KNOW
THE THINGS YOU KNOW.*





THEY CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT IS THAT HAUNTS YOU.

I CAN
SEE
YOU.



I CAN SEE
WHAT YOU ARE.
DO YOU HEAR ME?
**I KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE!**





THAT'S IT.
RUN AWAY.
TRUTH HURTS
DOESN'T IT,
ASSHOLE?

UGHN!

"TRUTH,
LIKE A BASTARD,
COMES INTO THE
WORLD..."

Huh?

IT IS A CRUEL
GIFT, IS IT NOT? TO
SEE THE **SKULL** BENEATH
THE **SKIN**? TO SEE THE
TRUTH BENEATH THE
LIE?

HEY.
HOW
LONG
HAVE YOU
BEEN
HERE?

OH, QUITE
A LONG TIME, I
SUPPOSE.

I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
SMOKE IN
HERE. IT'S A
HOSPITAL.

IS IT?
OH, WELL.
THE COMMON
RULES DON'T
REALLY
APPLY TO THE
LIKES OF
YOU AND ME,
DO THEY?

I KILLED
MY MOTHER,
YOU KNOW. THAT'S
WHAT THEY THINK.
THAT'S WHY **HE'S**
AFTER ME.

TELL ME
ABOUT IT.

I WAS JUST A KID. I WOKE UP ONE DAY AND I KNEW MY MOM WAS GOING TO DIE. JUST KNEW. SHE WAS LEAVING FOR WORK. I BEGGED HER NOT TO GO.

BUT SHE SMILED AT ME THE WAY GROWN-UPS ALWAYS SMILE AT A CHILD AND TOLD ME EVERYTHING WAS OKAY.

I REMEMBER CHASING HER OUT IN THE STREET, SCREAMING. I GUESS I REALLY FREAKED HER OUT.

SHE WAS HALF WAY TO THE BUS STOP WHEN SHE TURNED AROUND...

AND THEN--
BAM!--IT HAPPENED. SHE WAS THE FIRST.

WHY ME? WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?

"WHY?"
AYE, THERE'S THE RUB, ISN'T IT?

"BECAUSE YOU WERE GIVEN A GIFT. OR A CURSE.

"YOU SEE PAST THE GREAT LIE. YOU ARE TOO CLEVER FOR THEM."

I DON'T FEEL CLEVER.

BUT YOU **ARE**. SO VERY CLEVER. BECAUSE YOU SEE THE TRUTH. OTHERS MAY SUSPECT IT, BUT YOU **KNOW** THE DARK, AWFUL TRUTH OF THIS LIFE.

THAT THERE IS NO GREAT PLAN, NO COSMIC DESIGN. THAT LIFE IS MISERY AND LONELINESS AND PAIN FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE.

THAT THE GOOD SUFFER JUST AS MUCH AS THE WICKED, IF NOT MORE. THAT THERE'S NO FINAL REWARD FOR THE RIGHTEOUS.

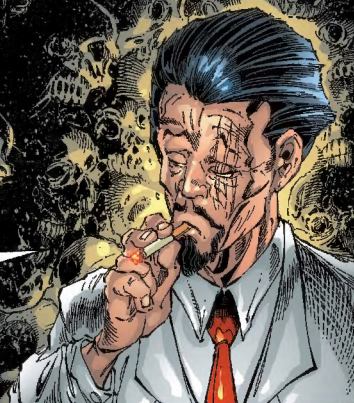
"AND THAT NO ONE IS COMING TO SAVE YOU.

"YOU SEE, THAT'S THE **REAL REASON** HE'S AFTER YOU."

IT'S NOTHING **PERSONAL** OF COURSE. THAT'S REALLY THE WORST BIT, ISN'T IT?

ALL THE BABIES BORN WITHOUT LIMBS, THE LEGIONS OF SWEET MOTHERS WHEELED INTO CANCER WARDS, THE CLUELESS BYSTANDERS SHOT DOWN IN THE STREET.

AND NONE OF IT'S THE LEAST BIT PERSONAL. WHAT A HORRIBLE THOUGHT.



PEOPLE DIE BECAUSE THEY'RE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY'RE **MORTAL**. NOT FOR ANY GLORIOUS CAUSE OR GRAND SCHEME.

YOU TORE OPEN YOUR HEART AND GAVE HIM A GLIMPSE OF THE TRUTH AND **THAT'S** WHY HE HATES YOU. BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU KNOW: THAT **NO MAN** EVER DIED FOR A **REASON**.



"LEAST OF ALL FOR **LOVE**."

"AND IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN **HE** HAS NO REASON TO EXIST."



"ON BLOODSTAINED WINGS, VENGEANCE FLIES... FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF NIGHT." THERE IT IS.

WHAT CAN I DO?

KEEP RUNNING. HIDE WHERE YOU CAN. NUMB YOUR MIND AND BODY TILL HE CAN NO LONGER SENSE YOUR PRESENCE. AND HOPE IT ENDS PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE.



"BUT DON'T LET HIM **NEAR** YOU, WHATEVER YOU DO."

"DON'T WORRY. I IMAGINE IT'LL ALL BE OVER SOON ENOUGH."

"BE SEEING YOU."



I DON'T THINK WE REALLY NEED TO LOOK AT THE RESULT, DO WE?

I THOUGHT NOT.



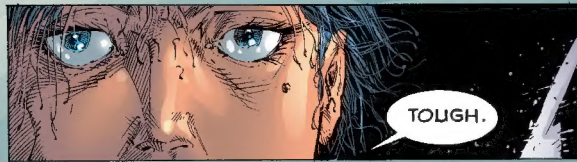
ARE YOU FRIGHTENED?

NO. I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING.

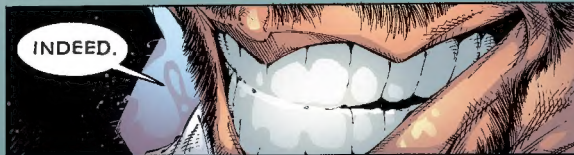


HE'LL BE DISAPPOINTED, OF COURSE.

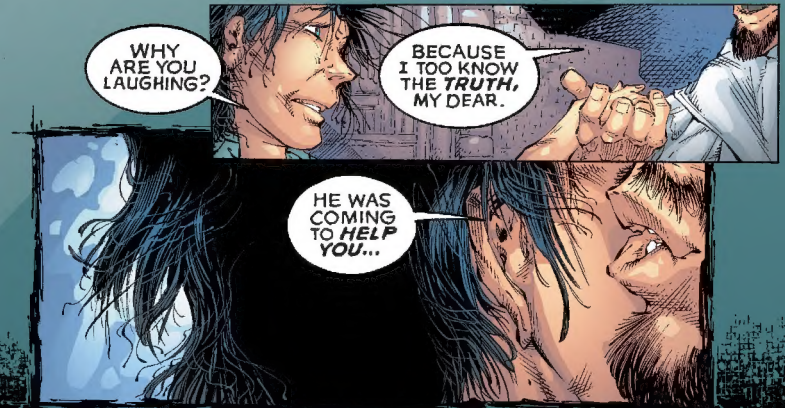
VERY DISAPPOINTED.



TOUGH.



INDEED.

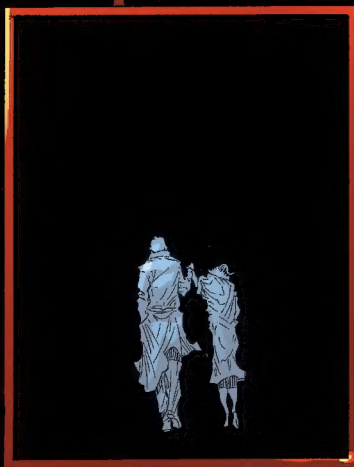


WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?

BECAUSE I TOO KNOW THE TRUTH, MY DEAR.

HE WAS COMING TO HELP YOU...







Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE